

MC1(SW/EXW)Matthew Leistikow

Originally from Rapid City, S.D., Petty Officer Leistikow joined the Navy in 2005 after receiving his Associate of Arts Degree from Arizona Western College.

He originally joined the Navy as a Journalist, graduating first in his class from the Defense Information School in Fort George G. Meade, Md. As the Navy merged his ratings into the Mass Communication Specialist Rating, he embraced photography with a nearly zealous ambition.

After graduating A-School, Leistikow entered his first command, Fleet Public Affairs Center, Atlantic, in Norfolk, Va. From his home unit he deployed with the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) and Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 7 for their 2006/2007 deployment in support of Maritime Security Operations.

He was accepted into the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications Military Photojournalism Program at Syracuse University where he became Top Graduate.

He reported to Fleet Combat Camera Group, Pacific, in Coronado, Calif. He served a six-month deployment in Kirkuk, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and a six-month deployment in Kajran district, Daykundi province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

He's currently stationed as an instructor at the Defense Information School in Fort George G. Meade, Md.

Leistikow's awards include two Good Conduct Awards, a Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Marksman Ribbons for both M-9 and M-4 weapons, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism medal, a Meritorious Unit Commendation medal, an Iraqi Campaign service medal, a NATO Service Medal, an Afghan Campaign medal, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, 2 Joint Service Commendation Medals, and a Joint Service Achievement Medal. His photographic awards include three Military Photographer of the Year awards (Honorable Mention Sports 2010, 2nd Place Sports 2007, and Honorable Mention Portrait 2007), 2nd Place, Hackman Challenge, 2007 DC Shoot Off, Honorable Mention, Egnor Cup DC Shoot Off 2013.